LETTER TO WORKINGMEN.

To the Editor: In writing down conscientious convictions in the heat of a political contest it would be unwise to expect that parties who oppose you can agree with you in your statements. This difference of opinion sometimes springs from consciencious motives, and sometimes from personal and selfish ones. Any way, hard knocks are to be expected, but the writer has got so used to this, some of which, however have gone past a joke; but I have the satisfaction of knowing that unscrupulous and unfair criticism, whether in hydraulics, mechanics or politics, defeats the objects the writers have in view. In my last letter I described the state of business when the present Dominion government came into power. I am sure that any person not blinded by political or party prejudice will acknowledge the moderation of my portraiture. Let me see how matters are now. To begin with the dwellings already built in this city and about to be built for occupation by the workingmen are of a much more comfortable and substantial class than those in use nine years ago. Hundreds of such dwellings have been built within the last four or five years, and many more are projected. These houses are occupied as soon as they are fit to reside in, and large numbers of them are either purchased entirely by the occupants or are held for payment on the instalment plan. Others have been built by the workingmen themselves without the aid of middlemen. Further, the accumulated savings of the industrious classes in the saving banks have enormously increased since 1877, all of which goes to show the material progress made since that time. There can be no doubt but that in all matters in connection with the material, moral and educational position of the working classes great progress has been made; and no wonder, as they only have kept pace with the remarkable increase in the productive energies of the city and country. I will just mention a few industries that were not in operation in 1877: We had no cotton mills, we have now two, one being enlarged; we had a rolling mill standing idle, we have now two, making every kind of merchant bar iron; our forging works was idle, it is now double the size and runs night and day; the iron pipe factory, then doing little, is now and has been busy for years, making the highest quality of pipes; our tool works was doing nothing, it is now a large iron bridge building works; Beckett's deserted foundry is now the site of one of the large cotton mills; the Burlington glass works, then idle, is now in full blast; Webster's sewing machine factory, then idle, is now the immense works of R. M. Wanzer; Zingsheim's cabinet factory, also new built; the Hamilton marble works, then idle, now Hore & Son's immense wheel and carriage stuff works; Osborne Killey's machine shop, boiler shop and foundry, and the Osborne scale works, erected; the Hamilton sewer pipe company's new and extensive works, erected on the site of the deserted locomomotive works of Mr. Gunn; the Meriden Britannia metal works, erected and equipped; Bowes, Jamieson & Co.'s extensive new foundry and stove works; the Hamilton Canning company's extensive works and two other canning factories; Meakins' new and extensive brush works, also the new Dominion brush works and the Dominion Hat works; large new nail, rivet and spike factory; Young Brothers' new chandelier, radiator and general fancy work foundry; Williams' extensive new foundry and stove works; Skimmen's new foundry; Greening's new and extensive Victoria wire mills; Macpherson's extensive new shoe factory; Morgan Brothers', Snider, Bailey & Co.s, and Robson's new roller flour mills, converted from stone mills; Leitch & Turnbull's elevator works; large new G. T. R. foundry; Wilson's agricultural works; large additions to nearly all the stove foundries; Fearman's and Thomas Lawry & Son's new packing houses; Copp's new machine and boiler shop, in connection with the stove foundry; Hamilton Electric Light company's works, on the site of the old Wanzer factory; an extensive tack factory is projected or intended to be built or set in operation here. All the industries enumerrted have been called into operation since the inauguration of the National Policy. Further, the piers and approaches to Hamilton bay were in a most dilapidated condition. When the Reformers were in power the attention of the government was repeatedly called to their condition as they were falling into decay and nearly useless. Not one cent was spent on them until the Conservatives got into power. They were then made a first-class job of, and the canal tolls were removed. The Conservatives also ordered the building of our new government public building—a magnificent pile—and they are about to build a new drill shed. It may be said they are built with public money. This is true; but none of it came our way when the Reformers were in power. They did nothing for Hamilton when they were in power and would injure it where most vulnerable if they were there again. Workingmen, place the Reformers in power and you will have reason to be sorry for it until you have the chance of putting them out. The writer is neither a boodler nor politician; never asked for nor got a favor from politicians to the extent of one cent in the 23 years I have been in this city. He can therefore speak without fear or the expectation of favor. The writer has been in the districts principally inhabited by workingmen in Liverpool and the manufacturing towns of Lancashire, Yorkshire and Staffordshire. All the advantages to be derived from free trade ought to be visible there in its entirety, as England is par excellence the model free trade nation of the world. I am constrained to say that the position of the workingclasses in protected Canada is infinitely superior to their position in the English manufacturing towns in the matter of dwellings, food, clothing, furniture, educational advantages and savings, for emergencies that may take place any time. They have also social, political and moral advantages that are not so easily acquired there; yet in England these are in advance of many parts of the continent of Europe at the present time. I do not think that any part of the earth is in advance of Canada in its material and moral interest. It is therefore necessary that we should be extremely cautious in our political changes as commercial panics are easily precipitated, but are long in getting over, and irepariable damage may be done before the opportunity comes of relieving them. I am perfectly satisfied that my view of what will transpire in the future will be fulfilled to the letter should a change in the present position of parties be resolved upon.

J. H. Killey.